

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : General Counsel

FROM : Comptroller

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation

DATE: 29 September 1952

1. In connection with the draft of proposed legislation attached to your memorandum to the DD/A dated 28 August 1952, it is suggested that consideration be given to adding the following:

"Sec. 5(a) is amended by deleting the words '.....its territories, and possessions.....' from the first sentence thereof."

2. The inclusion of those words in P.L. 110 leaves the Agency without authority to extend to employees stationed in territories and possessions the benefits listed in Section 5 of the Act, such as home leave, shipment of effects and autos, travel of employees' dependents, medical travel and hospitalization, etc. This affects a large number of employees presently stationed and/or subsequently to be stationed

The Career Program contemplates that individuals would be rotated to such places and from and between such places and foreign countries and the U. S. It therefore appears essential, both from the standpoint of career benefits and in the interest of orderly and efficient administration, that the Agency be in a position to grant similar rights, privileges, and benefits to employees in territories and possessions as those which are obtained in foreign countries.

3. We understand and appreciate the desire not to introduce items in the proposed legislation which would lead to controversy and involve prolonged argument and tedious detailed support. It would appear, however, that the deletion of the above-mentioned phrase could be supported and justified in principle on the broad basis of the fact that the Agency is using certain island possessions as operational bases and that the employees stationed on the islands include career employees who are rotated to adjacent foreign countries. The advantages and savings which would result from having one administrative policy and procedure governing all employees abroad would also be a strong argument.

4. It is believed that the change proposed could be supported and defended without going into each of the detailed, and possibly controversial, employee benefits provided for in Section 5. It is therefore recommended that consideration be given to including the above change in the proposed legislation.